

The Facts:

The State has recently changed and strengthened restrictions for obtaining a new driver's license in the State of Washington. Here are some of the reasons why:

- Collisions cause three-fourths of all deaths among American teens and two-thirds of all deaths among Washington teens.
- Even though teens comprise only 7 percent of all drivers in Washington, they make up 15 percent of drivers in fatal crashes.
- Two out of three teen passenger deaths occur when another teen is driving.
- One-third of fatal crashes involving teen drivers occur between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- States with driving restrictions involving newly licensed teens experienced up to a 27 percent drop in teen crashes.
- The best way to improve the driving skills of a new driver is to give them more behind-the-wheel driving experience.
- Washington's new Intermediate Driver's License restrictions require parents to drive with teens before teens can get their license.

For more information
about the
Washington Intermediate Driver's License,
or to receive a booklet or poster,
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It seems like just yesterday...

Your little girl needed
you to keep her safe.



She still does!

**Learn about new teen driving rules
that involve parents and teens, like:**

- **teen nighttime driving restrictions**
- **teen passenger restrictions**
- **extra behind-the-wheel requirements for parents.**

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Step One: Driver's Permit

Teens can get their permit when they turn age 15 if they are enrolled in a Driver's Education Course. If they don't take Driver's Ed, they must wait until age 15-1/2, and pass the written test.

Restriction:

A teen with a Driver's Permit is allowed to drive only with a licensed driver who has at least five years of driving experience.



Step Two: Intermediate Driver's License

Intermediate Driver's Licenses are issued only to teens age 16 to 18. To get an Intermediate Driver's License, a teen must have a Driver's Permit for six months and:

- Complete 50 hours of supervised driving time with a parent or driver who has at least five years of driving experience. At least 10 of the 50 supervised driving hours must take place at night.
- Have a clean driving record (for at least 6 months).
- Pass a Driver's Education Course.
- Pass the written and driving test (or just driving test if the written test was passed to get the Driver's Permit).

Restrictions:

- **For the first year:** no driving between 1 am and 5 am unless accompanied by parent, guardian, or licensed driver at least 25 years old.
- **For the first six months:** no passengers under age 20, except family members.
- **For the second six months:** no more than 3 passengers under age 20.

Passenger and nighttime driving restrictions expire after one year if a teen has maintained a collision-free, citation-free driving record. Restrictions can last until age 18 if a teen has a collision, commits driving violations, gets a Minor In Possession (of alcohol) violation, or drug violation.



Step Three:

Regular Driver's License

When a driver turns age 18, the Intermediate Driver's License becomes a regular Driver's License. No new license is required.

Penalties

Restrictions on teen drivers can stay in place until a driver turns 18. Penalties during this time are tough, and if any violations or collisions occur within the first year of holding an Intermediate Driver's License, passenger and nighttime restrictions will continue. In addition, for intermediate license holders the following actions are taken if a driving offense occurs:

- **1st offense:** warning letter sent to parent or guardian (the ticket cost is at least \$101).
- **2nd offense:** suspension of license for six months (and the ticket cost).
- **3rd offense:** license suspension until age 18.

Major Offenses

Alcohol, drug, and firearm violations affect your Driver's Permit and your Intermediate Driver's License.

- **1st offense:** your license is revoked until age 17, or for at least one year.
- **2nd offense:** license is revoked until age 18, or for at least two years.



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Common Problems

All drivers need to be especially careful in dangerous driving situations. Following are some common problems to be on the look out for.

- **Sliding on rain-slick roads.** Rubber from tires and oil from vehicles gets mixed with rain (especially after a dry spell) and the result is a very slick road.
- **Taking curves too fast.** Keep a careful eye on your speed.
- **Crossing railroad tracks on country roads.** If you're used to city driving, you may not notice that country roads where trains cross have no bars, so listen for the train's whistle (keep your radio down) and watch out for an on-coming train.
- **Missing stop signs on unfamiliar roads.** Sometimes stop signs get hidden behind over-grown trees and shrubs or removed by vandals. Be extremely careful when driving in unfamiliar areas.
- **Pedestrians in crosswalks.** As you make a left or right-hand turn, you might notice that your attention is focused on on-coming traffic, not pedestrians who may be crossing the street.
- **Failing to look over your shoulder before changing lanes.** If a vehicle is in your blind spot, you might just hit that car in such a way as to cause your vehicle to go into a barrel roll. Just one more reason to make sure your seat belt is buckled and you always do the "shoulder check" before changing lanes.
- **Crossing over the center line of the road** – either because you are distracted by changing the radio, dialing a cell phone or some other distraction, or because of drowsy driving. If you hit an on-coming car, the combined force of your two vehicles colliding is explosive.
- **Traveling too closely (tailgating).** Leave ample stopping distance – one car length for every ten miles per hour of travel. And leave much more space when traveling near a large truck.

